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### Linwood Veterinary Services

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*We will provide industry-leading, reliable, knowledgeable service, in a friendly, courteous and timely manner, to benefit our clients and the communities we serve.*

St Clements Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am to 5pm Open Saturday 7am-12pm

Hwy 89 Clinic Hours: Mon-Sat 7am to 1 pm

CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY and NO DELIVERY SERVICE SATURDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Orders for Delivery: Please, call BEFORE 9:30 am, for same day local delivery Monday to Friday

24 Hour Emergency Vet Service - call 519-698-2610 519-323-9002 519-699-0404 1-800-663-2941

## FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

### UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSURES

**March 29, 2024:** The St. Clements and Hwy 89 clinics **will be closed** for Good Friday. There will be **no delivery service or pickups**. The On-Call veterinarian **will be available** for emergencies.

### GET READY FOR THE CANADIAN DAIRY XPO!

**Dates: April 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

With the month of April just around the corner, the Canadian Dairy Xpo is on the immediate horizon! This two-day exhibition located at 355 McCarthy Road, Stratford, ON, is an excellent opportunity to see what's going on in the dairy world. The Xpo features the "Holstein Canada Hub" of "Services Working to Maximize Your Genetic Strategy", the "Robotics in Motion" exhibit, the showcasing of German dairy innovations at the German Pavilion, and more! Tickets can be purchased in advance at this link: <https://dairyxpo.ticketspice.com/canadian-dairy-xpo-2024->, or you can call (519) 265-8300 for further information.

**Canadian Dairy Business Summit: April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**

The first of its kind, the Canadian Dairy Business Summit, taking place the day before the Xpo, is a course of one day high-impact CEO training for dairy producers. Featuring panels on negotiation and decision-making strategies, Canadian contract law, strategic investment in the dairy industry, and more, the summit also contains a buffet lunch and an evening networking event to get in touch with other producers.

The summit is offering a special \$50 registration discount when you use the code "LINWOOD50" while registering. Registration can be done at [dairyxpo.ca](http://dairyxpo.ca) or by phone at (519) 265-8300.

## FOALING SEASON IS HERE!!

At Linwood Vet Services, we look forward to welcoming all your new foals to the world! In preparation for the foaling season, here is recap on what to expect and what you can do if things go a little sideways!



### How long is the gestation period of a mare?

- The average gestation length is 330 days (11 months). However, it can range from 320-380 days.

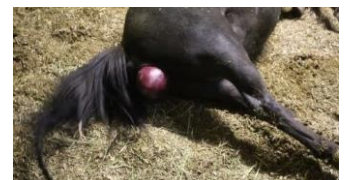
### How do I know if my mare is going to foal soon?

Most mares will foal overnight. There can be many signs of an impending foaling. These include:

- The production of milk in the udder. This begins 2-4 weeks before foaling.
- A wax appearing on the teat ends. This appears 1-4 days before foaling.

### Stages of Labour:

- **Stage I:** Typically lasts 1 to 2 hours.
  - The mare may become anxious, have contractions, begin kicking at her belly (these signs may resemble colic) and perform nesting behaviour.
  - At this time, it is recommended that you wrap the tail and clean the perineal region.
  - You may begin to see the fetal membranes bulging from the mare's vulva. These membranes should appear white in colour.
  - When the fetal membrane breaks, and you see a rush of fluid, Stage I is now complete.
- **Stage II:** The expulsion of the foal, which lasts 15-25 minutes.
  - You should expect to see continuous progression of the foaling. The correct presentation is front feet first, with hooves pointing down, followed closely by the nose, head, shoulders and hindquarter.
  - If there is no progression after 15 minutes following the rupture of the fetal membranes, it is recommended you contact a veterinarian to rule out causes for dystocia such as breach.
  - **Red bag delivery = EMERGENCY.** You **must** break open the bag and deliver the foal. With red bag delivery there is premature separation of the placenta resulting in impaired oxygen delivery to the foal.
- **Stage III:** The phase in which the placenta is passed. This should occur within 1-3 hours.
  - If the placenta has not been passed within 3 hours, it is important that you call your veterinarian. Remember to keep any placenta that has been passed so the veterinarian can examine what parts are possibly retained.
  - A retained placenta can lead to serious complications including metritis and laminitis.



### Tips to remember:

- Allow the foal to break the membranes (with the exception of a red bag delivery). Once it has broken through, ensure the foal is breathing.
- Following delivery ensure both the mare and foal are bright, alert and responsive.
- You do not have to cut the umbilical cord. In most cases, it will break when the mare or foal rises.
- In preparation for foaling, ensure the stall is clean and has an adequate amount of bedding.

### **ONE, TWO, THREE RULE:**

- The foal should stand within **1** hour
- The foal should show ability to nurse within **2** hours, and ideally the placenta has passed at this point.
- The foal should be actively consuming colostrum within **3** hours of delivery.

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**Once those four little feet are on the ground, make sure you give the baby the best start!**

- Colostrum is the mare's first milk. It is rich in antibodies which provide the foal with passive immunity until they develop an immune system of their own. Optimal absorption of antibodies occurs in the first 6-8 hours of life.
- Examination by a veterinarian in the first 24 hours (the sooner the better) will allow us to assess your newborn foal. This includes a full physical exam and analyzing whether the foal has received enough colostrum (see below).
- Snap IgG test- Allows us to determine if the foal has received adequate colostrum (both in quality & in quantity) using a blood sample taken from the foal. *\*Needs to be performed within the first 24 hours of life.*
  - If it has been over 24 hours since birth and the foal has a failure of passive transfer, the only option is a plasma transfusion.
- Treat the umbilical cord with an aseptic solution to prevent umbilical cord infections. Diluted chlorhexidine solutions (1:4) or diluted iodine can be used. Ensure to only dip the umbilical cord. These solutions can irritate the skin.
- Foals should pass meconium (the first sticky, dark stool) within 12 hours of life. An enema may be required if this does not occur.

We encourage you to check out these good resources:

- <https://www.equineguelph.ca/pregnancywheel/>
- <https://equineguelph.ca/Tools/Mare-&-Foal-Care.php>
- <https://aaep.org/horsehealth/foaling-mare-newborn-preparing-safe-successful-foal-delivery>
- <https://aaep.org/horsehealth/expectant-mare-assuring-health-and-well-being-pregnant-mare>
- <https://aaep.org/horsehealth/foaling-mare-newborn-preparing-safe-successful-foal-delivery>